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GLORIA MOLINA ANNOUNCES \$10,000 REWARD PAYOUT IN BASEBALL BAT BEATING INCIDENT

Rowland Heights Police Officer Assaulted During '06 School Burglary

LOS ANGELES (July 1, 2008)—Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina announced today that the county authorized two \$5,000 payments to the pair of individuals responsible for providing local law enforcement with the information that led to the arrest and conviction of four juveniles who assaulted a Rowland Unified School District Police Officer with an aluminum baseball bat while he investigated a school burglary at Jellick Elementary School in Rowland Heights on August 15, 2006. The officer sustained injuries to his head and eye.

“Though we all felt terrible about the initial assault on the police officer, we are very pleased that the reward motivated two individuals to come forward and identify the perpetrators of this crime,” Molina said. “An assault on anyone is unacceptable but an assault on a police officer who puts his or her life on the line every single day to protect public safety is especially egregious. I am glad that we achieved justice in this case.”

Because of the information provided to Sheriff’s Department as a result of the reward, authorities identified and arrested three juveniles on August 24, 2006, and a fourth juvenile the next day. Videotape evidence led to the identification of two of the suspects as students at Alvarado Intermediate School during the 2005-06 school year. All suspects were charged with burglary, vandalism, assault on a peace officer, and mayhem. Two of the suspected juveniles eventually were convicted and sentenced on October 2, 2007, and the remaining two juveniles were convicted and sentenced on January 22, 2008. Three of the juveniles were convicted of burglary and vandalism; they were sentenced to probation. The fourth juvenile found responsible for assaulting the police officer was sentenced to eight years in custody.

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On August 22, 2006, Molina and fellow Supervisor Don Knabe authored a motion to establish a \$10,000 reward relating to the August 2006 assault. Each supervisor contributed \$2,000 from their respective discretionary fund for this purpose, as students from both the first and fourth supervisorial districts attend Jellick Elementary School. The two individuals who received the award will remain anonymous.

Questions pertaining specifically to the trial of the four convicted juveniles should be directed to the Ms. Sandi Gibbons, public information officer with of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's office, at (213) 974-3528.

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